

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

INDEX e-WEB n°117

- A(H5N1) Human influenza – none
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – Tibet
- “INSIDE” Events: none
- “OUTSIDE” Events: none
 - Equine encephalitis – Panama

Location: World

Event: A(H5N1) – Human

Comments

No human cases reported this week

Location: Tibet Autonomous region

Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic

Comments

- On 9 June 2010, Chinese health authorities reported a cluster of A(H5N1) influenza infected wild birds in Tibet (Xizang province, cf. map 1), found dead on 25 May 2010.

Map 1. Tibet Autonomous region.



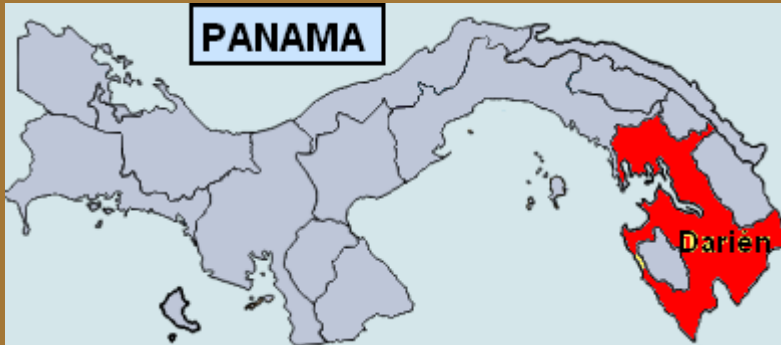
- The last A(H5N1) influenza epizootics were reported during the 2nd quarter of 2009 (cf. [e-WEB n°57](#)).
- The available information does not indicate a change in the epidemiology of the virus.

REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA
(Not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Location:	Panama	Event:	Equine encephalitis	<u>Comments</u>
------------------	---------------	---------------	----------------------------	------------------------

- On 4 June, Panama health authorities reported 2 cases of Equine Encephalitis in horses in the province of Darién (cf map 2), near the border with Colombia. Authorities reported having implemented control measures to contain disease spread including vaccination and movement control within the province.
- By 16 June, 68 horses including 45 deaths had been affected by the disease and reported to the MoH.
- On 10 June, the ministry of health reported 1 death in a child, aged 10 yrs, due to equine encephalitis in the same province. Another 5 paediatric cases are currently under investigation.
- According to the MoH, the outbreak may be attributable to East Equine Encephalitis (EEE). EEE case fatality can reach 65% in humans and between 75-90% in horses.
- Establishing diagnosis may be critical as cross-reactions have been described between Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE), EEE and West Equine Encephalitis (WEE) using ELISA.

Map 2. Darién province, Panama.



- The last cases of equine encephalitis in Panama had been reported in 2005.
- Surveillance of equine encephalitis is limited in Latin America and the Caribbean, thus numbers of equine cases may be largely underestimated.
- To date, only vaccination for horses exists. Vaccines combine several encephalitides: EEE/VEE, EEE/WEE/VEE or EEE/WEE. Trials are ongoing for a human vaccine.
- Recent events suggest sustained circulation of viral equine encephalitis. The extent of the outbreak may be underestimated. Panama is an important transit country, thus the situation will receive careful attention.